

Leicester, (Mass.) February 25. 1847.

My dear Sir,

By the arrival of the "Cambria" I have received your letter of Jan. 16th (intended to go by an earlier conveyance), and also Miss Carpenter's of Jan. 31st, with 2 Postscripts, one by yourself the other by Miss Anna Carpenter, both dated Feb. 1st. They came to hand ^{day before} yesterday, and were warmly welcomed, as my Bristol letters always are. But my pleasure in reading them was mixed up with a large alloy, when I learned the fate of the parcel of pamphlets which I sent to you by 5th Dec. Packet ship, and of the extortionate charge made thereon. I cannot explain it. I wrote immediately to my father, asking him to inquire into the circumstances, & explain them to me in season to inform you of the same ~~to~~ herein. I will not attempt to tell you of the disappointment I felt, in learning of this affair. I had taken some little pains to collect pamphlets & papers which I thought would be acceptable to you all. I do not remember them all, but there were some copies of Mr. Parker's late Sermon, (on the "Perishing Clippings of Boston", among others) for Miss Carpenter, & a copy of the Unitⁿ. An^l. Register each for Messrs. A. & J., as well as for yourself. The copy of Palmy on the "Slave Power". I am much chagrined to have you lose. I think the parcel must have been thrown into the Mail Bag of the Ship, by some stupid fellow; - but it is too late to help it now. I now feel as if I couldn't again be sure of your getting anything from ~~me~~ ^{me}, unless sent by private hand. The parcel, or parcels, before sent by same line of ships, have reached you safely, as you have informed me, and (I suppose) without unreasonable charge. — I wrote to you an account of the Bazaar, etc., intending to send the letter by 1st January Steamship, but lost the opportunity & sent it by ~~the~~ Jan. 5th Packet ship; I forget whether I sent any pamphlets with it (not having made any memorandum, as I usually do) but my impression is that I did. If so, I suppose the same bother has happened over again at Liverpool. — I was not displeased to see an extract from my letter to you & — in the "Inquirer" of Dec. 26th. Has there been, is there likely to be, any considerable increase of subscribers to the paper? — I trust our subscription-money (my brother's & mine) gets to the right place. It is duly paid to Crosby & Nichols, Boston, and goes into their account with Chapman, of whom the paper, I believe, was ordered. — I shall look for the coming of the "Damascus", & shall be most happy to serve you in the way of ordering the "Liberator", or in any other way. Your letter will explain more fully what you wish. The subscription-price of the "Lib." has been \$2.50 (about 10/ sterling), but this year has been reduced to \$2. —

No. it was not at the unreasonableness of the request (for 1000 copies of Notice of Bazaar) that I expressed surprise, but at the indication thereby afforded of the number of sympathizing friends & active helpers of our cause in your city & neighboring places — so very much beyond anything I was prepared to hear. When I came to see the big box, I understood it better. —

I have forwarded Mr. Webb's letter to Mr. Quincy. - I think with you that F. Douglass answered W.C. Wright well, about the manumission papers. That measure is exceeding 'unpopular' among the Abolitionists here. Not one paper (I believe) save the "Liberator", has defended it. It is alleged to have been unnecessary - wholly uncalled-for; it is condemned as expedient. Few abolitionists could condemn it as a violation of their own principles, inasmuch as there are few or none of them, I suppose, who have not frequently contributed money to buy somebody's husband, or wife, or children, &c. out of Slavery.

I am, at times, surprised to find how generally, nay universally, this ^{question} Slavery has become the great, national, absorbing question of the time, with us. This winter's Session of Congress has been filled up with it. The War has 'opened up' the whole subject of Slavery. The "Wilmot Proviso" so called, by which it is provided that in any territory which may hereafter be annexed to the U. States, there shall be no Slavery, or involuntary servitude, (save for crime of which the parties shall be duly convicted) has been passed in the House of Representatives by a vote of 115 to ~~106~~ 106. Of the 115 yeas, 114 were from Free States, 1 from Delaware, a Slaveholding State, but just now making legislative efforts to extinguish the little Slavery left therein. This, if done, will be a great gain, politically, to Freedom. The 2 Delaware Senators (each State ^{large or small} you remember, has 2 Senators in Congress) will then, it is to be hoped, act & vote for Freedom. Of the 106 Nays, 18 from Free States, (think of the miserable tools! stooping to be Slavery's Slaves! doing the dirtiest work of the Slaveholders! ready to vote Slavery over the vast, & now free, territory of Mexico, California, &c.) 88 from Sl. States. - The Legislatures of our most influential & powerful Northern States, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, as well as several others, have passed Resolutions approving the "Wilmot proviso", and demanding the exclusion of Slavery from all new Territory. John C. Calhoun is alarmed; in a paper of this week, I see an extract from a late speech of his in U. S. Senate, "Sir, there is no mistaking the signs of the times; and it is high time that the Southern States, the slaveholding States, should inquire what is now their relative strength in this Union, and what it will be if this determination [to exclude Slavery, as above] should be carried into effect hereafter. Sir, already we are in a minority - I use the word 'we' for brevity's sake - already we are in a minority in the other House, in the Electoral College, [by which the election of President is finally made, the people voting not for President, but for Electors of Pres. & V. Pres.] and I may say in every department of this government, except at present in the Senate of the U.S., - there for the present we have an equality." He proceeds to state that the whole number of members of the House of Representatives is 228; of these 138 from non-sl. hold'g. States, "and 90 are from what are called the Slave States." "In the electoral college there are 168 votes belonging to the non-slaveholding States, 118 to the slaveholding, giving a majority of 50 to the non-slaveholding." - If, with this knowledge of their strength, taunted them, and we might even say tauntingly ~~and~~ ^{cast at} them by this Southern lord, the North ever again allows a Slaveholder to be elected President, or a Slaveholder's Tool (which is a thousand times worse), they will deserve all the shame & woe which can possibly follow. - The "Wilmot Proviso" annexed to what is called the Three Million Bill is now under discussion in the Senate, as you perceive from what Mr. Calhoun says. There is no expectation that the Senate

will pass the Bill with that Proviso; no ^{Southern} ~~Slaveholding~~ Senator w^d. vote for it, I presume, and several Northern ones choose to go for Slavery, on all occasions, in preference to Freedom. But I trust the H^o. of Representatives will stand fast, and the Pres^t he refused the appropriation without the Proviso. - What a farce (if it were not the greatest of crimes) this Mexican War is! This country had a claim on Mexico for a few millions of dollars, 2 or 3 millions, not more; which Mexico acknowledged & was slowly, but regularly, paying. - ~~Up to~~ ^{that} the time ~~when~~ we annexed Texas, which Mexico still claimed as belonging to her, when she very properly refused to pay any more. To gain our rights, the country launches into a war, which is said to have cost already \$70,000,000; and now, to make a peace, the Pres^t asks for \$3,000,000!!! If this people don't get enough of Slavery's rule, and of James K. Polk's Presidency, before his term is out, then all signs fail. - I wish you could fall in with, and read, a Speech lately made in the U. S. Senate, by Mr. Corwin of Ohio. It is generally admitted to be the Speech of the Session. It is a masterly review of the War, as growing out of Slavery, and of the President's course; he convicts Mr. Polk ~~as a defender~~ of falsehood! pretty well, isn't it? but he does it so as to leave no doubt of the fact, and in a dignified way too. I have seldom, I think never, read a political speech which took such high moral ground, especially as to War.

Great exertions have been making in this country, and are still, to relieve the starving poor of Ireland & Scotland. In our larger cities, the sums are not yet made up; the last I heard from N. York, the amount raised in that city was \$50,000. One gentleman in this county has ^{given} ~~sent~~ \$1000. Another in Hartford, Ct. sent \$500. to the Relief Committee in Boston. The town of Worcester, in this county, will probably raise, it is said, \$10,000. Northampton in this State, a town of not more than 2500 inhabitants, has raised \$5000; (it is a wealthy town). The 'Community' at Hopedale, in this County, of which Adin Ballou is the principal, have given \$100. This town, i.e. individual inhabitants of Leicester have given about \$550. Boston will do largely; it never fails, on such an occasion. Next Monday's ship will carry ^{to England, &c.} the report of very large sums raised among our citizens for the starving millions of Ireland, &c. I believe many have felt that the ~~past~~ generous aid we have received, from Eng^d, Scot^d, & Ireland, in past years, for the Anti-Slavery Cause, has added a new obligation for their action in this crisis. - The Irish accounts have caused a very great & deep sensation in this country. The starvation of the body seems to them a horrible thing - so it is!; but the starvation, obliteration, and annihilation of millions of minds & souls, and the crushing of millions of hearts, - which Slavery has done, by our National sanction, ^{during the last} ~~for~~ ^{for} ~~sixty~~ ^{sixty} years! - oh! what is that! Well, I thank God for what good is done, and I trust the greater matter will not always be left undone.

I must thank you again for the 25 copies of your Tract which you sent me, and have given away a part of them. I don't give them to every one, but only to such as I think will value them, and upon whom I anticipate a good effect. They, who are pre-determined not to "be persuaded", I pass by, and look for such as have a moral sense predominating over their love of honor, of "influence", of ease, of worldly standing.

Feb 25/51

I must have left Jan. 25 even. With sincere regards to Miss Estlin, your fellow-servant, Saml May.

*Just really they are in unison with regard to nearly every one of their prominent notions.

You may like to know to whom I have sent them, and I will name some of them; beside, Dr. Howe, and Messrs. Donaldson & Keep of Ohio (to these you will remember you desired me to send copies), the Editor of Chrⁿ. Register, Chrⁿ. World, and Chrⁿ. Inquirer (the last a new Unitarian paper in New York, of which Rev. Hall Bellow is temporarily Editor), ^{sent to these simply as Editors -} Rev. Dr. Francis of Cambridge, Rev. Jas. F. Clarke & Geo. F. Simmons of Boston, N. Hall of Dorchester, Edw^d. E. Hale of Worcester, F. Hieck (my successor at Leicester), Dr. Jos. Sargent of Worcester (a young, yet prominent, physician & surgeon, a native of this town) Rev. George S. White of Canterbury, Connecticut (formerly an Episcopal minister in that State, now a Unitarian, so far as he takes any distinctive name), my two brothers, Mrs. Whitcomb of Brooklyn, Conn. (wife of a physician, both earnest Unitarian & Abolitionists, Mrs. W. being the soul & mainspring of a Ladies' Antislavery Society in that town). I intend to send copies, if they have none, to Rev. Messrs. C. Stetson of Medford, & E. B. Hall of Providence, R.I. — Mrs. Chapman informed me that she had forwarded to you a large number of slips or sheets, containing accounts of the Fair; I hope you will have enough to meet your arrangements & wish. I am sure the least we could do would be to ^{answer} ~~supply~~ your largest wishes in such a case. You have heard ^{that} the receipts of the Fair amounted to \$450 with a large quantity of valuable articles left, which will afford the staple of several fairs (provincial, you would call them) for some months to come.

I have been glad to see that the Memoir of Mr. Acton was published. I hope the copies will be sent here for ~~sale~~ ^{sale} — of course, they will be.

I have been wanting very much to send to you some copies of a recent work, by Mr. Parker Pillsbury, entitled "The Church as It is; or The Forlorn Hope of Slavery." It is an admirable work, — on the general plan of Birney's "Bulwark, &c.", but more full, better arranged, &c. But now, I shall hardly dare to send you anything of the kind. I shall take pains to learn about vessels sailing direct between Boston and Bristol — this is one other chance left; which I will try, if I have an opportunity. The "Am. & Foreign A. S. Society" is not identical ^{*} with the Liberty party, as asserted in the Belfast Ladies' Address which you sent me; and George Bradburn has recently been making a fuss because Garrison allowed such an idea to prevail in England. The "Am. & F. A. S. Society" is scarcely more than 'a shadow of a name'. The 'Liberty party' is bustling, noisy, &c. about election-times; at others, we hear ~~less~~ of their doing but little. In many of their positions, they are in the rear of prominent Whig & Democratic politicians. As a body, they have offered little or no opposition to the pro-slavery war upon Mexico. Within a few weeks, a Lib. party Convention in Boston did pass some strong Resolutions on the subject, but this is an exception to their general course. They go for the Union, as they say, "Slavery in or Slavery out." They are laboring to show that the Constitution gives no countenance to Slavery, & makes no compromise with it! — which no sane Whig or Democrat ever thought of denying. The Belfast Address gives them, I think, too much credit for a wish to "purify the political boundaries". It appears to me to have a leaning towards 'Liberty party'.

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Leicester, Friday eveg. Feb. 26th.

My dear Sir, A letter from my father, rec^d. to-day, says "I deeply regret the loss of the parcel by 5th Dec^r. Ship, and should feel deep mortification if any neglect on my part had caused the disaster. The parcel was given in care of Mr. Train's partner, to go in the parcel bag - but by some unaccountable mishap it got into the Mail Bag" [as I supposed] "the like has never happened to me before, I believe; and yet it may occur again, nor do I know of any way of avoiding it, but by finding a trusty passenger who will deliver the parcel to our friend in Liverpool." This looks as if parcels would not be received in those ships. I suspect that father, without consideration, left the parcel at Mr. Train's without pre-paying its passage as a parcel. When I am next in Boston, I will clear up the matter if I can, as to the transmission of parcels. "The Damascus has not yet arrived," ^{my} father says. Thirty thousand dollars, in relief of the Irish, &c. have already been subscribed in Boston, and father thinks it will go up to \$50,000. It is stated ^{to-day} that the U.S. Govt. have put the frigate Macedonian at the command of parties who are forwarding donations to Ireland. I know not if it be so. The "M." is a vessel captured from your country in the war of 1812, if I remember right; and I think it would be a mean act, and justly regarded as insulting, to ~~send~~ ^{send} such a vessel ^{were sent} to one of your ports on such an errand, not displeased to see an extract from my letter to you of — in the inquirer of Dec^r 26th.

Has there been, is there likely to be, any considerable increase of subscribers to the paper? - I trust our subscription-money (my brother's & mine) gets to the right place. It is duly paid to Crosby & Nichols, Boston, and goes into their account with Chapman, of whom the paper, I believe, was ordered. - I shall look for the coming of the "Damascus", & shall be most happy to serve you in the way of ordering the "Liberator", or in any other way. Your letter will explain more fully what you wish. The subscription-price of the "Lib." has been \$2.50 (about 10/ sterling), but this year has been reduced to \$2. -

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I must have stop. With sincere regards to Miss Estlin, I am, as ever, most respectfully, your fellow-servant, Jan. 25/51

I am not quite positive of being right as to the vessel - but I think I am. In to-day's "Liberator" is a spirited & excellent letter to Mr. ~~Bates~~ Garrison from Mr. Bishop of Exeter. - You will be glad, I doubt not, to learn that Mr. John L. Adams is so far recovered, as to have gone to Washington, and taken his seat in Congress, where one of his first acts was to vote for the "Wilbur proviso." - Most respectfully Yours, S. M.

* That really they are in mission with regard to nearly every one of their prominent members.

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